

**P.O. Box 5804
Baltimore, MD 21282-5804**

January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my support for Microsoft and the government for reaching a settlement on the antitrust issue. The government did what they thought was in the best interest of the consumer. Microsoft showed in this settlement that they have always done that and will continue to.

Microsoft took the initiative and offered a very reasonable settlement. They have agreed not to retaliate against software or hardware developers who develop or promote software that competes with Windows or that runs on software that competes with Windows, not to enter into any agreements obligating any third party to distribute or promote any Windows technology exclusively or in a fixed percentage, subject to certain narrow exceptions where no competitive concern is present, and agreed that if a third party's exercise of any options provided for by the settlement would infringe any Microsoft intellectual property right, Microsoft will provide the third party with a license to the necessary intellectual property on reasonable and non-discriminatory terms.

Microsoft has lived up to its corporate responsibility, and I, the consumer, never doubted that they would. I support this settlement, and hope it stands.

Sincerely,



Michael Nelson